GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4597
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
PATENT OF OUR OLD TRADITIONAL MEDICINES
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are some foreign countries trying to obtain the patent of our old traditional medicines; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b) Government is aware that some foreign countries are trying to obtain patents of some traditional medicines and medicinal plants used in ISM.The government is setting up a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to bring the Ayurvedic knowledge about the use of Medicinal Plants which is already in published form in easily accessible and retrievable form to prevent grant of patents on non-original inventions.